



September 2001



**James Roche**

## Hail and Farewell

### *An open letter from James G. Roche, Secretary of the Air Force*

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The Air Force bade farewell on Sept. 6 to a friend, an exceptional leader, and a champion of Air Force standards and quality of life. We also hailed on this day a new chief of staff, selected by President Bush and confirmed by the United States Senate, to preside over the total Air Force team as our highest uniformed leader.

Gen. Michael E. Ryan dedicated more than 36 years of his life to our Air Force — he sacrificed much and succeeded at all he did along the way. Our grateful nation and our superb Air Force are the beneficiaries of his exceptional leadership, his focus on improving quality of life for all airmen and their families, his innate sense of excellence, and his dedication to successfully transform us toward a fully expeditionary aerospace force.

His legacy is a bright and promising future for aerospace power and all airmen on the total Air Force team, including our active duty, Air National Guard, Reserve, retirees, veterans, and families. It has been an incredible honor and a pleasure for me to have had the opportunity to serve with Gen. Mike Ryan. To me, he epitomizes the leader's ethic: my mission; my men; and only then, myself.

Gen. John P. Jumper, our new chief of staff of the Air Force, brings an impressive background and broad experience to the job of helping to lead our total Air Force team onward in this new century. Somewhat like General Ryan's, his family ties to our service extend as far back as the Army Air Corps. His experience transcends both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, with more than 1,400 combat hours in two Southeast Asia tours, and two full assignments in Europe. Having already proven himself a wise counsel and superlative leader at Air Combat Command, I am truly looking forward to serving with General Jumper in the months and years ahead. Our bright future awaits. Together with everyone else on our team, General Jumper and I will work to pilot the journey that will take us there.

On behalf of the total Air Force team, I bid fond farewell with profound appreciation to Gen. Mike Ryan, and congratulate and welcome Gen. John Jumper, our 17th chief of staff of the Air Force. @